

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of the claims in this application. Please, delete "**CLAIMS**" and replace with:

--CLAIMS

What is claimed is:--

Then, please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) A gear wheel having a plurality of gear teeth along a root circle for cooperating with the teeth of another toothed element without any clearance for use in precision devices, each of said gear teeth comprising:

- a radial slot opening towards it tip and dividing it into a first half-tooth and a second half-tooth; and,
- a recess in said second half-tooth enabling it to be deformed elastically upon compression, said recess being enlarged increasingly away from the tip of

the tooth towards the root circle of the wheel such that said second half-tooth has a width that increases from base to tip and said first half-tooth has a width that decreases from base to tip in order to have a rigidity greater than that of said first half-tooth.

18. (New) A gear according to claim 17, wherein said radial slot extends beyond the root circle of the gear wheel.